



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

June 5, 2008

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

FROM: Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Weekly E-Newsletter

IN THIS REPORT:

- **Department announces program that will improve math education**
- **Comment on proposed rule on fingerprinting and background checks**
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DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES PROGRAM THAT WILL IMPROVE MATH EDUCATION (GO TO TOP)

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna announced this week a program that will help raise student achievement in mathematics across the state. As part of the Idaho Math Initiative, the State Department of Education signed a statewide contract with Apangea Learning, Inc., a Pittsburgh-based company, to provide online math instruction and tutoring services to students who struggle with math.

“A large part of the Idaho Math Initiative is to provide Idaho schools and classroom teachers with the tools and resources they need to not only help students who struggle in math but to also give advanced opportunities to students who are truly gifted in math. Apangea Learning’s SmartHelp Math program is a great supplement to classroom instruction and a great way to motivate students to work toward improving their math skills,” Superintendent Luna said. “Schools across the country are using SmartHelp Math and seeing great results, and I am excited to see how this program helps raise student achievement here in Idaho.”

The Idaho Legislature approved \$3.9 million to implement the first phase of the Idaho Math Initiative in the 2008-2009 school year. The Idaho Math Initiative is a comprehensive approach to improving student achievement in math in Idaho and focuses on four major components: Professional development for teachers, assessment tools, remediation for students who struggle and advanced opportunities for students who excel in math. Apangea Learning’s SmartHelp Math program will help assist students who struggle and also provide advanced opportunities for students who are above grade-level.

The Idaho Math Initiative Task Force recommended the use of SmartHelp Math in Idaho schools as an intervention tool that would best meet the needs of Idaho students and the goals of the Idaho Math Initiative because it focuses on problem-solving skills and provides live online tutoring from certified teachers. Members of the task force and other



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teachers from across Idaho researched different intervention tools before choosing Apangea Learning and conducted a full curricular review to ensure SmartHelp Math met Idaho's curricular and content standard requirements. SDE staff and representatives of the task force also visited schools that are currently using Apangea Learning's SmartHelp Math to see how it works in a classroom setting.

SmartHelp Math is an online, supplemental math instruction and tutoring program that will help raise student achievement in Idaho by providing students with focused instruction, rigorous math problems, access to live certified teachers and a motivation program with rewards for working on math problems. Apangea Learning works with the classroom teacher to tailor the online math instruction to the needs of the individual student. Students can access the program anywhere they get Internet access – whether at home or at school. Currently, schools in more than 20 states across the country are currently using SmartHelp Math as a supplement to instruction and noticing increased student achievement.

“Teachers face the daily challenge of meeting the individual needs for every single student in their classroom,” explained Louis Piconi, Apangea Learning CEO and Co-Founder. “Through SmartHelp Math, teachers now have the right resource to conquer this challenge. SmartHelp Math will not only provide their students true one-to-one differentiated instruction, but also engage and motivate them to learn math inside the classroom and at home.”

To view a quick demonstration of how the SmartHelp Math program works, please visit <http://www.apangealearning.com/demo/index.html>.

For more information, please contact Cindy Johnstone, Math Coordinator, at (208) 332-6932 or CMJohnstone@sde.idaho.gov.

COMMENT ON PROPOSED RULE ON FINGERPRINTING AND BACKGROUND CHECKS (GO TO TOP)

The State Department of Education is seeking public comment on a proposed board rule that will help implement House Bill 566a, a bill that passed the Idaho Legislature earlier this year and amended Idaho Code 33-130 and Idaho Code 33-512(15). This law affects fingerprinting and Criminal History Checks for personnel working in school buildings.

Since the Legislature passed this law, the State Department of Education has been working to write a Board rule that will help implement the changes and solidify past procedures the state has been using for the past 12 years. The Department would like input from superintendents, charter school administrators and/or other school district officials who manage fingerprinting and Criminal History Checks at the district level. If you are not the person who handles fingerprinting, please forward this e-mail to the correct person in your school or district.

To review the rule, please visit www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacherCertification/ and look under the “New” heading to open “Board Rule for HB 566a 5-22-08.” After reviewing the rule, please submit your comments in writing to Shannon Haas at SHHaas@sde.idaho.gov.

Thank you in advance for your time and input. We appreciate any and all feedback we receive so we can ensure we develop a rule that will help meet the needs of all schools and districts across the state.



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DEPARTMENT HOSTS SCHOOL SECURITY VENDOR TRADE SHOW (GO TO TOP)

The State Department of Education invites district superintendents, charter school administrators and/or the school safety designee in a district or charter school to attend a mini trade show presented by school security equipment and technology vendors who have agreed to partner with the Department. As part of Superintendent Luna's efforts to address school safety gaps as identified by the Safe and Secure Schools Assessment, the Safe and Drug-Free Schools office at the Department has been working to solidify agreements with major security equipment vendors and manufacturers whose products meet or exceed industry standards and who will offer Idaho schools a minimum of 35 percent off list price for security products. If your school or district is planning to purchase security equipment in the near future, please consider attending this upcoming event. Companies involved in this offer everything from radio bridges and mass text messaging to surveillance cameras and biometrics. This presentation is also part of the Department's work to create an Idaho specific Crisis Response Planning Guide, Safety and Security recommendations for schools and a safety and security primer.

Here are the details of the event:

- Date: Wednesday, June 25, 2008
- Time: 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Place: Cambria Suites, 2970 West Elder Street in Boise (specific conference room to be determined)

Please RSVP to Camille McCashland at CMcCashland@sde.idaho.gov by **Wednesday, June 18, 2008**. Please indicate in the e-mail the number of individuals from your school or district who plan to attend. All associated travel costs are the responsibility of the participant. Lunch will be provided. Vendors involved in this partnership thus far include School Safe Communications, Bosch, Vicon, Ingersol Rand, Gruber Manufacturing, Anixter, TXTwire and Meridex. If you have any questions or require more detail, please contact the Safe and Drug Free Schools office at (208) 332-6960.

FALL CONFERENCE DATES (GO TO TOP)

Here is a list of upcoming fall conferences that are scheduled during the statewide in-service days on October 2-3, 2008. If you have a fall conference that you would like listed in the Weekly E-Newsletter, please e-mail information about the conference to Melissa McGrath at MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov.

"Walk the Talk--Literacy Teachers in Action"

Idaho Council of Teachers of English/Idaho Council International Reading Association State Conference
Twin Falls High School in Twin Falls
October 2-3, 2008
Contact: Brandon Bolyard at Bolyard@tfstd.k12.id.us

"Our Sense of Place"

The Idaho History and Social Sciences State Conference
Boise High School in Boise
October 2-3, 2008



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Contact: Russ Heller at russ.heller@boiseschools.org

“Connecting Students Futures by Connecting Math and Science”

Idaho Science Teachers Association and Idaho Council of Teachers of Mathematics
Collaborative Fall Conference
Bonneville High School in Idaho Falls
October 2-3, 2008
For more information: <http://www.stoller-eser.com/ista/conference.htm>

“Partners Helping Students”

Idaho School Counseling Association and the Idaho School Psychologist Association
Collaborative Fall Conference
Grove Hotel in Boise
October 2-3, 2008
For more information: www.idahoschoolcounselor.org/conference.

“Whole Child – Whole Teacher Regional Education Conference”

Idaho Falls School District 91 and the D91 Education Foundation
Skyline High School in Idaho Falls
October 2, 2008
For more information: Contact Elisa Saffle at saffelis@d91.k12.id.us or Shelly Smede
smedshel@d91.k12.id.us

“Going for Educational Gold: Empowering both Students and Teachers”

Idaho Council for Exceptional Children, Idaho Art Educators Association and Special Olympics Idaho
Collaborative Fall Conference
Sun Valley
October 1-2, 2008
For more information: Visit www.idahocec.org or e-mail Karen.gillette@boiseschools.org.

“Creating Connections: Integrated Cross-Curricular Teaching”

American Falls School District
October 2-4, 2008
For more information: Contact kayj@sd381.k12.id.us.

“Fall Literacy Conference”

University of Idaho College of Education, Northwest Inland Writing Project, Inland Northwest Council of Teachers of English
University of Idaho Commons
October 3, 2008
For more information: Contact Barbara Monroe at bjmonroe@wsu.edu or Rodney McConnell at
rmac@uidaho.edu.

“Connecting to Improve: Native American Education in Idaho”



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Idaho Indian Education Summit sponsored by Idaho Indian Education Committee, Idaho's universities and tribes, Idaho Humanities Council
Owyhee Plaza Hotel in Boise
October 2-3, 2008
For more information: Contact Mary Jane Oatman-Wak Wak at (208) 332-6968 or MOwakwak@sde.idaho.gov.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will visit Spalding Elementary School at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11, 2008 to participate in a class project about students and the local community.

WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Idaho Summer Institute of Best Practices** – The State Department of Education is hosting the 2008 Idaho Summer Institute of Best Practices. Staff from the Department will present on the following strands:
 - Creating Independence Through Student Owned Literacy Strategies Across the Curriculum
 - Math Concepts/Numeracy Across the Curriculum
 - Failure is not an option: What 90/90/90 Schools Know That We Don't ... Yet
 - Advisor/Advisee: Making a BIG Difference
 - HSTW/MMGW Overview
 - Value Added Grading
 - Engaging Classroom Strategies Using The SIOP Model
 - Dealing Parents In: A Full Deck of Ideas
 - Is Learning Dead-Who is responsible

Two Regional Institutes will be held this year so choose which place works best for you. Here is the schedule:

- July 28-29, 2008 at Hillcrest High School in Idaho Falls
- July 30-31, 2008 at Wendell High School in Wendell

The cost is \$100 for two days and includes handouts, continental breakfast, lunches and snacks. One credit will be available. Scholarships are available. To register online or to learn about scholarships, please visit www.sde.idaho.gov/registration/idahosummer/.

- **Special Education Discipline Report** – The deadline to file the Special Education Discipline Report is **June 16, 2008**. Visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/SpecialEd/Discipline/default.asp> to find a copy of the report.
- **Feedback on Supply and Demand report** – The State Department of Education's Teacher Certification office is evaluating the annual Supply and Demand Report, which gathers information on staffing and personnel issues throughout the state, to determine how useful this report is to schools and districts in its current forms and to find ways in which we can improve its value. The Department would greatly appreciate your feedback on this topic. Please visit www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacherCertification/ to see a list of questions the Department would like addressed and then submit your comments or suggestions via e-mail to Keith Potter at KDPotter@sde.idaho.gov or Shannon Haas at SHHaas@sde.idaho.gov.



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- **Health Education surveys** – If you are a secondary principals or lead health educators who received the 2008 School Health Education Profiles Survey, please remember to return the Profiles Surveys to the State Department of Education as soon as possible. You can mail the survey to the Department in the stamped envelope your received or fax it to the Department at (208) 334-2228 with “ATTN: Pat Stewart” clearly written on the fax. Thank you to all of the administrators and teachers who have returned the survey so far. These surveys are used to assess school health programs, polices and health education across Idaho and are part of a national study sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – Division of Adolescent School Health (DASH). The State Department of Education uses the information to provide training and support to teachers and administrators in the form of professional development, policy guidance, and best practices in health education and services. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Pat Stewart, Health Coordinator, at (208) 332-6929 or PLStewart@sde.idaho.gov.
- **School Bus Driver Workshops** – The State Department of Education will be holding five separate School Bus Driver Trainings throughout the state on “Student Behavior & Welfare.” All workshops will be one full day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with breakout sessions for driver trainers and bus drivers. The workshops are scheduled as follows: August 4 in Boise, August 6 in Blackfoot, August 8 in Burley, August 12 in Coeur d’Alene and August 14 in Lewiston. The workshop costs \$30 for driver trainers and \$20 for drivers, which will be reimbursable on your district’s annual reimbursement claim form under “travel expenses – registrations.” Participants registered as trainers will receive state-approved training materials. Please acquire the necessary support from your immediate supervisor and submit your registration form(s) online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/Transportation/default.asp>. Registration will be available until June 30. Payments via credit card will be available during the online registration process or you can send the registration payment to the Idaho State Department of Education, Student Transportation office. As always, no purchase orders or vouchers will be accepted. If you are unable to register online, please contact the Student Transportation office at (208) 332-6851.
- **Curricular Materials/Textbook Caravan Survey** – The State Department of Education is collecting data on how to improve the Textbook Caravan. Please assist us by completing the survey located at http://www.sde.state.id.us/beta/curricular_materials/survey/default.asp. This survey will help us plan future Textbook Caravans to better support your school needs, as school participation is essential for its continued success. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Val Fenske, Curricular Materials Coordinator, at (208) 332-6967 or VAFenske@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Attendance and Enrollment workshops** – Pre-registration is open until June 13th for the Attendance and Enrollment August Workshops. Here is the schedule of workshops:

Thursday, August 7th	Boise	Barbara Morgan Conference Room, 650 W. State, Boise
Friday, August 8th	Boise	Barbara Morgan Conference Room, 650 W. State, Boise
Tuesday, August 12th	Idaho Falls	Taylorview Jr High, 350 Castlerock Ln, Idaho Falls
Wednesday, August 13th	Pocatello	Pocatello District Office Board Room, 3115 Pole Line Rd Pocatello
Thursday, August 14th	Jerome	Summit Elementary, 200 West 10th Street, Jerome
Monday, August 18th	Coeur d'Alene	Midtown Meeting Room, 1505 N 5th Street, Coeur d'Alene
Tuesday, August 19th	Lewiston	Lewiston District Office Board Room, 3317 12th Street,



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Lewiston

For more information, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/financeandtechnology/default.asp> and click on the “Attendance and Enrollment Workshop” link listed under “Training” in the column to the right of the page.

- **Middle School Task Force regional meetings** – The Middle School Task Force is conducting regional public meetings across the state, including meetings in Idaho Falls and Pocatello this week. The task force is holding public meetings to discuss its current recommendations with the general public. The Middle School Task Force was created by the State Department of Education and State Board of Education in 2007 to ensure every Idaho student is prepared to be successful in high school and beyond. Here is the most up-to-date list of regional task force meetings, which will all be held from 5:30-7 p.m.
 - June 4: Idaho Falls, Idaho Falls School District Board Room
 - June 5: Pocatello, Pocatello School District Board Room
 - June 9: Meridian, Meridian School District office, Middle Clearwater Room

Meetings in Coeur d’Alene and Lewiston will be announced at a later date. Learn more about the Task Force at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/newsandpress/publications.asp>. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Joan MacMillan, Initiatives Coordinator at the Department, at (208) 332-6812 or JEMacMillan@sde.idaho.gov.

- **University of Idaho Fall Literacy Conference** – The University of Idaho College of Education is calling for proposals for its 2008 annual Fall Literacy conference scheduled October 3, 2008. The College of Education, in cooperation with the Northwest Inland Writing Project and the Inland Northwest Council of Teachers of English, is sponsoring the conference. Judy Mitchell, Dean of the College of Education at Washington State University, will be the keynote speaker. The conference will focus on reading, writing and research geared toward students from early childhood through college, including special education and ESL.

The conference will be held at the University of Idaho Commons. The cost for the conference is \$60 for professionals, \$25 for students, and includes breakfast and lunch. Parking is free. To learn more or to submit a proposal, please contact Barbara Monroe at bjmonroe@wsu.edu or Rodney McConnell at rmac@uidaho.edu.

REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Department job opening** – The State Department of Education is seeking outstanding candidates to apply for the position of Response to Intervention (RTI) Coordinator. The primary responsibility of the RTI Coordinator is to coordinate the administration of a statewide system of RTI for the state. The RTI Coordinator may also be called upon to assist in a variety of educational and administrative duties relating to the operation of local schools. The RTI Coordinator must have a strong academic background in teaching and learning and have extensive knowledge of Response to Intervention in relation to applications of RTI in general education, to Title programs under No Child Left Behind, and to Special Education services under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. To download an application, please visit www.sde.idaho.gov/jobopenings.



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- **Hispanic Education Summit** – The Idaho Summit on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Students will be held July 24-25, 2008 at Boise State University in Boise. This event will provide educators, community leaders, policy makers, and interested members of the public with a forum for networking and exchanging information about current education issues and needs within Idaho's Hispanic community. Registration is \$25 per person. Scholarships are available. Visit http://www2.state.id.us/icha/menus/education_summit.asp to register online. If you have questions, please contact Lymaris Blackmon at the Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs at (208) 334-3776.
- **Idaho Human Rights summer conference** – The Idaho Human Rights Education Center is accepting applications for its June 9-13, 2008 Summer Institute for Teachers (grades 5-12). The institute is designed to immerse teachers in content, pedagogy, and project-based learning that examines broader human rights issues and themes through the lens of the state's learning standards, mandate for citizenship education, and integration of character education/service learning. Applications are available online at www.idaho-humanrights.org (click into Education) or by calling (208) 345-0304. Institute lodging, meals, and a participant travel stipend are funded by the Center; graduate credit is available through Boise State University.
- **Civil Liberties Symposium** – The third annual Civil Liberties Symposium will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 19 and 20 on the College of Southern Idaho campus in Twin Falls. This annual symposium is one of the key events in helping to increase awareness and appreciation of civil liberties both from a historical and a present day standpoint. The symposium costs \$60 for sessions and an additional \$30 for meals. For further information, please contact CSI History Professor and conference organizer Russ Tremayne at (208) 732-6885 or at rtremayne@csi.edu. To register, call Lauri Watkins at (208) 732-6850 or Connie Stout at CSI at (208) 732-6800, or register online at <http://www.boisestate.edu> and click on "admissions."
- **Workshops for school bus technicians** – The State Department of Education's Student Transportation office annual training for school bus technicians will be held July 15-17, 2008 at Boise State University. The workshop requires a registration fee of \$125, which will be reimbursable on your district's annual reimbursement claim form under "travel expenses - registrations." Please acquire the necessary support from your immediate supervisor and submit your registration form(s) online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/Transportation/default.asp>. If you have questions, please contact the Student Transportation office at (208) 332-6851.
- **Oregon Trail Learning Experience** – The Idaho chapter of the Oregon-California Trail Association invites all Idaho educators to participate in the 2008 convention of the Oregon-California Trail Association. Idaho has not hosted the convention since 1997, and the work within the state marking the trail, discovering forgotten journals and diaries, and research of all kinds has progressed considerably the last few years. The convention will be held August 4-9, 2008 at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. University credit is available through Northwest Nazarene University in conjunction with the conference. Registration information is posted at www.idahooccta.org or you can contact Cathy Bournier with the Division of Tourism Development at (208) 334-2470 for more information.
- **Financial literacy curriculum and teacher training** – The NEFE Financial Planning Program is available to high school teachers of business, economics, family and consumer sciences, marketing, math and others. You can learn how to teach personal finance in your classes by using the free NEFE School Financial Planning Program Curriculum. Registration is free and includes a binder of teaching materials, lunch, snacks, door prizes, & more! Sessions are scheduled as follows: July 9 in Twin Falls, July 10 in Idaho Falls, July 15 in Lewiston, July 17 in Coeur d'Alene, and June 18 and 19 in Boise. For more information on summer dates, please contact: LaRaye



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O'Brien at the Idaho Credit Union League at (208) 343-4341 or Lobrien@idahocul.org; or contact Lyle Hansen, the University of Idaho Jerome County Extension Educator, at (208) 324-7578 or lhansen@uidaho.edu.

- **Teacher of the Month award** – Northwest Nazarene University and Peak Broadcasting are recognizing Treasure Valley teachers and the positive impacts they have on our children by presenting monthly a Teacher-of-the Month award on 630 KFXD All Talk Radio with Jon and Chris. To nominate a teacher, visit www.kfxd.com and write a brief description on why he or she deserves this recognition. The awards will be announced on-air on the last Friday of the month. For more information, contact Northwest Nazarene University at (208) 467-8412.

UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **June 10, 2008** – The deadline to turn in submissions for Alternative Authorization. The Professional Standards Commission Authorization Committee will be conducting a meeting to approve Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certificate district requests on June 10. If you have questions, please contact Cina Oravez at (208) 332-6936 or CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov. Please submit complete application packets to Cina Oravez, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to this date. You can mail applications to:
State Department of Education
ATTN: Cina Oravez
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027
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- **June 15, 2008** – Data for the school libraries survey must be submitted to the Idaho Commission for Libraries. The Commission is collecting annual statistics for the current 2007-2008 school year, the pilot year for an ongoing initiative. The data will help assess the correlation between Idaho's school libraries and student achievement. Visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/school-library-stats> to get started on the survey. If you have any questions, contact: Frank Nelson, frank.nelson@libraries.idaho.gov or Debby Wylie, debby.wylie@libraries.idaho.gov or call them at 800-548-6212.
- **June 16, 2008** – The deadline to file the Special Education Discipline Report. To find a copy of the report, visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/SpecialEd/Discipline/default.asp>.
- **July 1, 2008** – The deadline to apply for the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund's 2008 National High School Journalism Teacher Awards Program, which identifies outstanding high school journalism teachers with at least three years' experience who have done exemplary work in the 2007-2008 academic year. For more information, visit <http://www.newspaperfund.org/>.
- **July 10, 2008** – Applications for Regular Session Alternative Secondary School are due to the State Department of Education. These applications are available online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/AlternativeSchools/default.asp>. If you have any questions or need assistance in filling out the application, please contact Lori Howard at (208) 332-6902 or at LAHoward@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Aug. 7, 2008** – The Annual Superintendents' Meeting will be held in Boise. More details to come.



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- **Aug. 8, 2008** – The New Superintendents' Meeting will be held in Boise. More details to come.
- **Sept. 30, 2008** – The deadline to submit nominations for Idaho Teacher of the Year to the State Department of Education. Applications for the 2009 Idaho Teacher of the Year are now available on the State Department of Education's Web site at www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacheroftheYear. Please note that the Idaho Teacher of the Year application is the same as the application for the National Teacher of the Year.